

The Race is Not Less Loyal, But More Insistent For Our Rights!

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Georgia Citizens Protest to The Nation!

Citizens Mass Meeting at Atlanta Address Open Letter of Protest to President, Congress, Governors and State Legislatures of United States.

The following copy of an open letter from the Colored Citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, to President Wilson, congress, governors and state legislatures of the United States, protesting against lynching and other discriminations against the race, was received by the Star this week. The letter was signed by P. J. Bryant, chairman, and L. H. King, secretary, of the mass meeting called for the purpose and 110 other prominent citizens:

Atlanta, Ga., March 5, 1918. To the President, the Cabinet, the Congress of the United States, the Governors and the Legislatures of the Several States of the United States of America:

During the past three decades nearly three thousand American colored men, women and children have suffered butchery and death in almost every conceivable form at the hands of the lynchers of America. Last year alone the number thus murdered was TWO HUNDRED and TWENTY-TWO. The reported causes for such appalling brutality run the gamut from alleged violation of the honor of white women to disputing the word of white men. The fact, however, that only about five per cent of those murders are reported to have been inflicted upon accused violators of womanhood argues almost conclusively that the desire to protect womanhood is almost negligible among the so-called causes of lynchings.

We accordingly regard lynching as worst than Prussianism, which we are at war to destroy. Lynching is not a cure for crime, either imaginary or real. It decreases faith in the boasted justice of our so-called democratic institutions. It widens the frightful chasm of unfriendly and suspicious feeling between the races and positively foments the spirit of antipathy and resentment. We are accused of concealing criminals. Who has concealed the many criminals that have mercilessly murdered these three thousand defenseless men, women and children of our race? That these murderers frequently ply their trade in broad daylight and in plain view of the entire citizenry even, does not facilitate their punishment or detection. Within less than one year one state alone has tortured and burned at the stake three colored men without even the semblance of a trial or an effort to apprehend and punish the murderers. In the last instance an entire helpless colored population was marched around the fire amid fumes of a burning human being and put on notice that as that black man was suffering they too should fear to suffer. Thus the defiant lynching giant strides on apace. While we are sacrificing the best blood of our sons upon our Nation's altar to help destroy Prussianism beyond the seas, we call upon you to use your high offices to destroy the lynching institution at our doors.

We are the one group of American people, than whom there is none more loyal, which is marked out for discrimination, humiliation and abuse. In the great patriotic and humanitarian movements, in public carriers, in federal service, the treatment accorded us is humiliating, dehumanizing and reprehensible in the extreme. This persistent and unreasonable practice is but a thrust at the colored man's self-respect—the object being not merely to separate the races but to impress us with the idea of supposed natural inferiority. Such demoralizing discrimination is

not only a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens of the United States, but the persistent segregation of any element of our country's population into a separate and distinct group on the sole basis of color is creating a condition under which this nation cannot long endure.

When we reflect upon these brutalities and indignities we remember they are due to the fact that in almost every southern state we have systematically, by law or chicanery, been deprived of the right of that very manhood suffrage which genuine democracy would guarantee to every citizen in the republic. This propaganda of filching from colored Americans the ballot is but a supreme effort to re-enlave us and to force our assent to, and our impotence against, any legislation of our opponents. To this policy the black man does not, cannot and will not agree. Of it, our intolerance is cumulative. Against it, we shall exert our righteous efforts until not only every eligible black man but every eligible black woman shall be wielding the ballot proudly in defense of our liberties and our homes.

We are appealing to you neither as vassals nor as inferiors. Bull Run and Appomattox fixed our status in this nation. We are free men. We are sovereign American citizens—freemen who purchased with our own blood on every battle field from Buena Vista to Appomattox full rights and immunities such as are freely granted to others but systematically refused us.

We are writing to you, gentlemen, that you may give us the assurance and guarantee which every American citizen ought to have without reference to color. We are loyal and will remain so, but we are not blind. We cannot help seeing that white soldiers who massacred our black brothers and sisters in East St. Louis have gone scot free. We cannot help seeing that our black brothers who massacred white citizens in Houston have paid the most ignominious penalty that can come in this country to a man in uniform. Do not these undemocratic conditions, these inhumanities, these brutalities and savageries provoke the Rulers of the nation to speak out of their sphinx-like silence and utter a voice of hope, a word of promise for the black man? Do the rulers of the nation also hate us, and will they, Plutonic-like, forever give their assent to the crucifixion of the bodies, minds and souls of those in whom there has been found nothing worthy of the death we are dying, save that we are black? May not your silence be construed as tacit approval of active tolerance of these things? The effort on the morale of black men in the trenches, when they reflect that they are fighting on foreign fields in behalf of their nation for those very rights and privileges which are denied at home, might be discouraging.

We appeal to you in the name of Democracy!

We appeal to you in the name of our American citizenship!

We appeal to you in the name of God, and,

We would be heard!

Rev. Whitaker Making Good in St. Louis

According to a letter received from Rev. R. A. Whitaker, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist church, of this city, and he is the lion of the day among the Baptist of that city, where he is now engaged in a big revival. He is working hard every day, but enjoys it because the people there appreciate him. However, he did not fail to hint that there is no place like Tulsa for doing big things in

the big way.

McADOO WILL SPEAK IN TULSA THIS EVENING

Secretary of the United States Treasury and Head Man of All the Railways in Country Will Stop Few Minutes in Tulsa.

Hon. Wm. G. McAdoo, a very important personage in national affairs at this time, because of his dual office of secretary of the treasury and director-general of the railroads of the United States, will arrive in Tulsa over the Frisco from Oklahoma City at 6:25 o'clock this evening and will speak from a platform erected for the occasion at the depot. He will leave immediately after his speech.

BIDS BEING RECEIVED FOR COLORED HIGH SCHOOL BLDG.

Bids for the erection of the colored high school are being filed with the county clerk, Lewis Cline, and will continue being filed until the 4th of May.

There are several colored contractors in Tulsa and it is hoped they will get in the game. It would be a splendid thing for colored men to get the job, and they can get it if they try.

ANOTHER MAN MURDERED

Slayer Makes Escape From Vigilant Police Force.

Billy Tyron was shot and killed Tuesday morning by Rob Smith on the corner of Ninth and Main. Both men are colored, and the killing is believed to have been traceable to certain colored woman who is employed as a servant in the south end. Smith made his escape and has not been apprehended.

COLORED CITIZENS WANT EWING BACK

McAlester Citizen Pass Resolutions Urging Logan County Man to Make Race for Third Term.

The announcement made a few weeks ago by Representative Amos A. Ewing of Guthrie, a member of the house of representatives in the state legislature for the past two years, that he would not be a candidate for a third term has aroused the colored people of the state and there is now a concerted movement among them to induce him to reconsider and make the race for a third term. Resolutions are being drafted by colored people in nearly all parts of the state, according to information that reached the Star office this week.

Col. Ewing was the leader of the republican forces in the legislature during the last two sessions and had many friends in the democratic ranks in both houses. It was he that blazed the way for the appropriations for the Langston Institute and for the establishment of a state school for wayward Negro girls. It is because of the good Ewing has done the colored people of the state in this way that they are now urging him to "come back."

A copy of a resolution passed at a mass meeting of colored people at McAlester was received by the Star Tuesday. It is as follows:

"WHEREAS, It has come to the notice of the colored citizens of McAlester, Oklahoma, through the columns of the Black Dispatch, that the Hon. Amos A. Ewing, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, has decided to retire from

the State Legislature and decline to be a candidate for a third term, and,

"WHEREAS, the services of the said Hon. Amos A. Ewing are indispensable to the Negroes of this state; and that the interests of the Negro in Oklahoma will suffer lamentably if he should not return to the Legislature,

"THEREFORE, be it resolved by the colored citizens of McAlester in meeting assembled that the Hon. Amos A. Ewing, be and he is hereby urged and implored to stand again for the legislature, in order that his great work in our behalf shall be carried on; and the said citizens of McAlester hereby pledge to him, should he consent to run again, every lawful aid and influence that it may be within their power to control.

"April 20th, 1918.

THE CITIZENS OF McALESTER, OKLAHOMA, IN MASS MEETING ASSEMBLED.

E. E. McDANIEL, Chairman.
Dr. E. W. SMITH, Secretary."

TULSA WOMEN ALSO WOULD NOMINATE EWING FOR THIRD TERM AS STATE LEGISLATOR

The City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs of Tulsa, Thursday passed the following resolution urging Representative Ewing to accept the nomination for a third term in the state legislature:

"Whereas, the information has reached us through the Tulsa Star and other sources that Representative Amos A. Ewing has announced that he would not be a candidate for a third term as a member of the house of representatives, and,

"Whereas, the journals of the past two sessions of the legislature gives brilliant history of his deeds on behalf of the colored people of this state, and,

"Whereas, we believe his presence among our other friends in the legislature would lend much to our educational progress in the state, for the reason that he is well acquainted with the needs of our schools in Oklahoma, and by reason of the prestige of his two years' association among the members of the legislature would doubtless be able to do more in our behalf than a new representative, therefore

Be it resolved, that we, the City Federation of Women's Clubs of Tulsa urge, request and implore Mr. Ewing to heed the cry of our people and accept nomination for a third term in the state legislature.

Mrs. N. Ledinger Hughes, President.

Mrs. Mattie M. Bridgewater, Secretary.

Mrs. Julia A. Jackson,

Mrs. Hattie R. Carter,

Mrs. Alice Lewis,

Mrs. A. J. Smitherman, Committee.

Civic League Will Give Smoker

The Colored Civic League of Tulsa will give a smoker on Tuesday night in Smith's hall on North Hartford. All members of the League are invited to attend. Punch, cigars and story-telling will be the order of the day. County Attorney Geo. Reeves has been invited to address the organization on this occasion.

The officers of the League plan to give weekly or at least monthly entertainments of this kind and have special speakers for each occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wilson entertained a host of young people at their home, 612 East Haskell, last Sunday in honor of Miss Pearl McCrimmon who is now stopping with them.

RACE CONGRESS CALLED TO MEET NEXT MONTH

Nine Colored Men Selected From Oklahoma for Negro Congress in Washington Next Month.

Leading Race Men of Nation Will Ask Government for Guarantee of True Democracy for the Negroes of the United States.

Editor: Smitherman One of the Nine Selected as Delegates.

The National Colored Liberty Conference has issued a call for a National Negro Congress to meet in Washington, D. C., May 29th, for a four-days conference to end June 2d. The object of the meeting being to take action to secure from the national government a guarantee of civil and political rights for the colored people of the United States.

The loyalty of the race at all times in this country has been, and is now, commendable beyond a fault, but the frequent lynchings of Negroes in this country, including Colored U. S. Army Officers and wilful murdering of Negro women and children by mobs composed of white men, together with the many other unfair discriminations the race is suffering while Negro soldiers are in France and still going there to fight for democracy, has created a sentiment in this country which will not be quieted until the true principles of democracy has been planted and taken root in the good old United States and its benefits extended as much to the Negro as to any other race or citizen.

It is this sentiment that has given rise to the national Negro Congress in Washington next month. The delegates selected for this very important race work are to be sent by their respective communities. Every state in the Union will be represented at this Congress by delegates.

The Oklahoma representatives have been named in a call issued by J. Coody Johnson, of Wewoka, president of the Negro Protective League of Oklahoma, and published in the Muskogee Cimeter of last week as follows:

"To the Negro Citizens of Oklahoma,

Greetings:

"Know ye that, whereas, a call for a Negro Congress has been made by the National Colored Liberty Conference, and that said Congress is to convene in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, on the 29th day of May, 1918, and continue in session until June 2nd, That said Congress is called for the purpose of taking action to secure from the Government a guarantee of equality of civil and political rights and abolition of injustice and discrimination on Color lines as our share of the World Democracy for which our race is legally bound to offer life in the World War.

"Whereas, I have been officially notified and asked to name delegates to said Congress, now therefore, know ye that I, J. Coody Johnson, president of the Negro Protective League for the State of Oklahoma, do by virtue of authority in me vested by said League, name and appoint the following delegates to said Congress.

Delegation:

J. Coody Johnson, chairman, Wewoka; G. W. F. Sawyer, Chandler; J. M. Marquess, Langston; E. T. Barbour, El Reno; T. H. Traylor, Oklahoma City; T. J. Elliott, Muskogee; A. J. Smitherman, Tulsa; R. Emmett Steward, Muskogee, and W. H. Twine.

Dated this 18th day of April, 1918, at Wewoka, Oklahoma.

J. COODY JOHNSON,

President.

W. H. Twine, Secretary.

As shown by the above call, A. J. Smitherman, editor of this paper, has been selected as one of the nine delegates. This is a signal honor for Tulsa; not because Smitherman has been delegated on this great mission, but because the colored people of Tulsa will be permitted to send one of their own representatives to this Congress.

It would be well for the different organizations among our people in Tulsa to place in the hands of Editor Smitherman between this and the time he leaves for Washington such resolutions as they may deem wise and expedient to present to this august body of race leaders who will meet in the nation's capital to present the righteous cause of more than twelve million Negroes of the United States.

In this as in every other particular, Tulsa will do her bit in this great race endeavor, and when the Congress meets Tulsa will have a hearing. A movement is already on foot to raise money to send Tulsa's delegate to Washington.

GURLEY SAYS HE IS NOT DEAD

State-Wide Rumor of His Death Is Branded as False By Prominent Tulsan.

The Star office was called by long distant telephone twice this week, once from the west side of the state and once from Muskogee inquiring into the death of O. W. Gurley, of this city, who, it had been rumored was shot and killed by his wife last Saturday night. When called and told of the inquiry into his death Gurley requested that the Star emphatically deny the report and to say that he is very much a live man.

It is supposed the erroneous report is traceable to the killing of Rob Wright Saturday night by his wife, some one probably having mentioned Gurley's name in connection with the killing. The Wrights live in what is known as the Gurley Hill addition.

Mrs. Wright Must Stand Trial for the Murder of Her Husband

Mrs. Maggie Wright, who shot and killed her husband, Bob Wright, at their home, 812 North Greenwood avenue, last Saturday night, was bound over without bail Tuesday by Justice A. J. Smitherman to answer in the next term of the district court to the charge of murder.

The defendant was represented in the preliminary trial by lawyer Wallace (white) and the state by E. I. Sadtler (colored). The evidence introduced tended to show the killing of Bob Wright was premeditated.

